

U S A: Open for Business 美國：投資大門常開



In spite of current economic difficulties, the inherent strengths of the US are still intact.
儘管現時經濟環境十分困難，美國仍然維持原有的競爭優勢。

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The US welcomes foreign investment and recognises its positive impact on economic growth. Investment from Hong Kong is no exception. Hong Kong companies currently hold a US\$3.2 billion direct investment position in the US. Hong Kong companies are increasingly making the leap into the US market. For example, the Bank of East Asia and TTI North America (Subsidiary of Techtronic Industries) have recently announced plans to invest in the US.

Investing in the US has many advantages. The American workforce ranks as one of the best educated, most productive, and most innovative in the world. The US also offers a predictable and transparent legal system, outstanding infrastructure, and access to the world's most lucrative consumer market.

Economy and Consumer Market: The US has the largest economy in the world, with a GDP of approximately US\$45,000 per person. The systems of regulation and taxation give foreign investors ample operational freedom. In its 2007-2008 *Global Competitiveness Report*, the World Economic Forum (WEF) ranked the US

first out of the 131 economies surveyed. The US accounts for 42 per cent of the global consumer goods market, with a disposable income of approximately US\$32,000 per person. Also, the US maintains free trade agreements with 14 partner countries, with a combined GDP of approximately US\$4 trillion.

Technology and Research and Development:

The country is the centre for global innovation. According to RAND Corporation's National Defense Research Institute, the US is responsible for 40 percent of total research and development expenditures in the world. Furthermore, the US employs nearly three-quarters of the living Nobel laureates, publishes over 60 percent of the world's 'highly cited publications', and is responsible for nearly 40 percent of 'patented new technology' created within the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. American companies are leaders in technological advances and innovation. Among Business Week's Top 100 Information Technology companies, 33 are US firms. In its 2007-2008 Global Competitiveness Index, the WEF ranked the US first for innovation and labor market efficiency.

Intellectual Property Rights Protections:

Investors from around the world come to the US to invest in R&D and commercialise the results of their creativity. The US provides a strong regime of intellectual property rights protection and enforcement. Of the 183,000 patents granted by the US Patent Office in 2007, almost 50 percent of the applications originated in a foreign country.

Education and Workforce: Six of the top ten universities in the world are in the US, according to the Times Higher Education Supplement. There are more than 4,000 universities and colleges in the US. Furthermore, more than 580,000 international students were enrolled in American institutions in the 2006-2007 academic year. Many community colleges have tailored training programmes to investors who locate facilities in their area. Investors can gain access to a highly productive and adaptable workforce. According to a 2007 International Labor Organization report, 'the US still leads the world by far in labour productivity per person employed in 2006.' Furthermore, "the report also shows that the productivity gap between the US and most other developed economies continued to widen."

Transportation and Infrastructure: The US has the largest paved roadway system, railway network, and number of airports in the world. Four of the top ten airports by air cargo volume are in the US, including the world's busiest cargo

airport. The country is also home to some of the world's busiest international bulk cargo and container ports.

Hospitable Society: The US is a friendly and hospitable country, where many foreigners live and invest. As a nation of immigrants, the US boasts some of the largest cultural diasporas in the world, and is committed to affording all foreign investors fair and equitable treatment.

The US welcomes foreign investment and maintains a long-standing commitment to an open investment policy. The recent launch of Invest in America (IIA) by the US Department of Commerce supports this commitment. IIA's efforts focus on outreach to foreign governments and investors, support for state governments' investment promotion efforts, and addressing the concerns of international investors. The major activity areas of the Invest in America programme are:

Facilitate Investment Inquiries: IIA welcomes all inquiries from foreign investors who want to learn more about investing in the US. It provides information about the US economy as a whole, assists in making contacts with appropriate federal and state agencies, and helps investors learn more about US policies and investment procedures. IIA is located within the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, which maintains a global network in over 70 countries.



Invest in America

Act as Ombudsman: IIA serves as an ombudsman in Washington, DC, for the international investment community, working across the Federal Government to address investor concerns and issues involving federal agencies. Common problems or concerns are often easily responded to either by the Department of Commerce or appropriate counterparts in the Federal Government.

Advise on Policy: IIA reviews and acts upon specific policy issues from international investors. It regularly engages with US government stakeholders to address policy concerns and provides recommendations to improve the US investment climate.

Connect Investors with US States: In the US, local and state entities facilitate individual foreign investment transactions while offering the tailored services investors need to complete a successful investment. IIA works with each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and US territories to connect potential investors with US investment officials. Invest in America also maintains individual state contacts designated by each governor to answer international investment inquiries.

Provide Investor Education: IIA continually develops programmes and services to educate international investors on topics related to investing in the US. It also works to educate domestic audiences on the benefits foreign direct investment offers their communities.

In closing, the US unequivocally supports FDI, and provides foreign investors fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory treatment as a matter of policy, law, and practice. The US is equally committed to securing such treatment for US investors abroad.



For more information, please visit the Invest in America website at www.investamerica.gov, calling +1 202-482-5199, or emailing me at aaron.brickman@mail.doc.gov. Investors can also conveniently explore doing business in the US by reaching out to the US Commercial Service's offices in Hong Kong by visiting <http://export.gov/eac/index.asp>.

美國認為海外資金可促進本國經濟增長，所以一直以來歡迎各地商界來美投資，對香港資金也不例外。目前，香港在美國的直接投資額達32億美元，香港的公司正快速進入美國市場。例如，東亞銀行以及北美創科(創科實業附屬機構)最近公布了在美國的最新投資計劃。

在美國投資有諸多便利條件。美國勞動力人口的教育水平、工作效率和創意位列世界之首；法律制度高度透明及穩健，基礎設施完善，還有當今世界最活躍的消費市場。

經濟及消費市場：美國是全球最大的經濟體系，國民生產總值的人均收入約為45,000美元，其法制和稅制在經營上都給予外國投資者充分的自由。世界經濟論壇《2007-2008全球競爭力報告》將美國評為131個受訪國家和地區首位。此外，美國佔全球消費品市場的42%，人均可支配收入約為32,000美元。美國已與14個國家簽訂自由貿易協議，合計國民生產總值約達40,000億美元。

科技及研發：美國是全球的創意中心。根據蘭德公司國防研究所的資料顯示，美國的研發開支佔全球的40%。目前，有四分之三的諾貝爾獎得主受聘於美國；全球著名刊物六成以上在美國發行；經濟合作與發展組織所註冊的新技術專利權中，有接近四成是在美國開發。美國企業絕對是創新科技的領導者。在《商業周刊》列出的世界百家資訊科技公司當中，33家是美國公司。在創新和勞動市場效率方面，美國高踞世界經濟論壇《2007-2008全球競爭力指數》榜首。

知識產權保護：美國的知識產權保護和執行制度十分完善。世界各地的投資者來到這裡投資研發，並將創意成果商業化。美國專利商標局2007年註冊的183,000項專利當中，接近一半的申請源自海外投資者。

教育及勞動力：《泰晤士高校教育專刊》指出，全球最頂尖的十所大學中，有六所是美國大學。美



國共有4,000多所大學及院校，2006-2007學年共有58萬國際學生登記入學。社區學院根據外國投資者在當地的投資項目，提供度身訂造的培訓課程，方便投資者進入高效率、適應力強的勞動力市場。根據國際勞工組織去年的報告，「美國勞動力的人均生產力2006年仍在全球處於大幅領先位置」，而且報告指出，「這個優勢持續擴大」。

交通及基建：美國擁有全球最大的高速公路系統和鐵路網絡，機場的數目也最多。全球空運量最高的十個機場中，有四個在美國境內，當中包括最繁忙的空運機場。不少全球最繁忙的國際散貨及貨櫃碼頭的總部也設在美國。

好客的社會：美國是一個十分友善和好客的國家，很多外國人選擇到美國居住和投資。作為一個由移民組成的國家，美國對不同文化可以共融感到十分自豪，並致力於公平、平等地對待所有海外投資者。

美國歡迎海外投資，多年來一直實行開放的投資政策。美國商務部最近成立的「投資美國」(簡稱IIA)將進一步加強有關承諾，並集中資源向外國政府及投資者推薦投資美國商機、支援各州政府的投資推廣工作和處理國際投資者遇到的問題。

「投資美國」的主要工作範圍包括：

提供投資查詢：「投資美國」歡迎所有海外投資者查詢有關在美國投資的詳情。它可提供有關美國整體經濟的資訊、協助投資者與相關的聯邦和州政府機構聯絡，並幫助他們瞭解美國的政策和投資程序。「投資美國」的辦事處隸屬與全球70多個國家有聯繫的商務部國際貿易管理局。

發揮監察作用：「投資美國」可代表國際投資界在華盛頓發揮監察員的作用，透過與聯邦政府的聯繫，為海外投資者表達他們的對涉及聯邦機構

的問題和憂慮；而一般的情況都可由商務部或聯邦政府的相關部門解決。

提出政策建議：「投資美國」根據國際投資者的查詢，檢討個別政策；亦會定期與美國政府有關方面反映政策的事項，並提出改善美國投資環境的建議。

為國際投資者與美國各州之間搭設溝通橋樑：在美國，各個州及下屬郡市縣等設有相關機構專門協調及促進海外投資交易，並提供度身訂造的服務，協助投資者成功投資。「投資美國」與全美50個州、哥倫比亞特區以及美國屬地的政府投資部門密切合作，為他們和海外投資者之間架設溝通渠道。「投資美國」也和個別由州長委派的聯絡人保持緊密聯繫，以解答國際投資者的疑問。



為投資者提供指導服務：「投資美國」持續舉辦各種教育服務活動，以幫助海外投資者及時瞭解在美國投資所需要了解的事項。「投資美國」同時也教育國民有關海外直接投資可為社區帶來的好處。

總而言之，美國明確支持海外直接投資，並就有關政策、法例和常規，為投資者提供公平、公正和平等的待遇。美國亦為在海外的美國投資者提供同等待遇。



有關詳情，請瀏覽「投資美國」的網頁www.investamerica.gov、致電 +1 202-482-5199或電郵至aaron.brickman@mail.doc.gov。投資者亦可透過瀏覽<http://export.gov/eac/index.asp>，聯絡美國商務部香港辦事處，進一步瞭解投資美國的商機。